Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method of treating an occluded vessel with a stent, comprising ~~the acts of~~:

routing a delivery catheter having the stent mounted or restrained thereon to a position proximal to the diseased section of the vessel wherein the stent ~~is of the type that~~ includes:

a core having an outer surface,

~~means for~~ a first portion capable of increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods, and

~~means for establishing~~ a barrier on the outer surface of the device so that the ~~visibility increasing means~~ first portion is isolated from a patient's blood;

deploying the stent from the delivery catheter; and

expanding the stent into abutment against the interior lining of the diseased vessel so as to provide a support mechanism to prevent closure of the vessel,

wherein a portion of the core contacts the vessel.

18. (Currently Amended) A device used in-vivo comprising:

a core;

~~means for~~ a first portion capable of increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods; and

~~means for establishing~~ a barrier on the outer surface of the device so that the ~~visibility increasing means~~ first portion is isolated from a patient's blood,

wherein the barrier comprises an oxide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta, and Al.

Claims 19-23 (Withdrawn)

24. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 18, wherein the ~~means for establishing a~~ barrier ~~on the outer surface of the device~~ comprises an outer layer surrounding at least a portion of the core to form a barrier layer between the core and the patient's blood.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of Claim 24~~ A device used in-vivo comprising:

a core;

a first portion capable of increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods; and

a barrier on the outer surface of the device so that the first portion is isolated from a patient's blood,

wherein the ~~outer layer is made from~~ barrier comprises a nitride of a metal selected from the group consisting of ~~Ti,~~ Cr, Ta and A1.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The device of Claim 24~~ A device used in-vivo comprising:
a core;
a first portion capable of increasing the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods; and
a barrier on the outer surface of the device so that the first portion is isolated from a patient's blood,
wherein the ~~outer layer is made from~~ barrier comprises a carbide of a metal selected from the group consisting of Ti, Cr, Ta and V.

28. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 24, wherein the outer surface of the outer layer includes ~~means for delivering~~ a therapeutic agent.

29. (Previously Added) The device of Claim 24, wherein the outer surface of the outer layer is textured.

30. (Previously Added) The device of Claim 29, wherein the textured outer surface is adapted for receiving a therapeutic agent to be delivered during use.

31. (Previously Added) The device of Claim 30, wherein the structure of the textured surface is selected from the group consisting of micro-pores, grooves, and cross-hatched lines.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 18, wherein the ~~visibility increasing means~~ first portion includes a pre-selected percentage of the core being a radio-opaque element.

34. (Previously Added) The device of Claim 18, wherein the core is an alloy comprising a pre-selected percentage of radio-opaque element so that the visibility of the core to *in-vivo* viewing methods is increased.

35. (Previously Added) The device of Claim 34, wherein the percentage is approximately 70 percent.

36. (Currently Amended) The device of Claim 24, wherein the ~~visibility increasing means~~ first portion includes a radio-opaque material disposed in the core.

~~37.~~ (Previously Added) The device of Claim 18, wherein the device is a coronary stent.

38. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein a portion of the first portion contacts the vessel.

39. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the first portion is surrounded by the core and the barrier.

40. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the first portion does not completely surround the core.

41. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the barrier comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxide, and a carbide.

42. (New) The device of claim 26, wherein the barrier layer comprises a therapeutic agent.

43. (New) The device of claim 26, in the form of a stent.

44. (New) The device of claim 27, wherein the barrier layer comprises a therapeutic agent.

45. (New) The device of claim 27, in the form of a stent.